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**VIOLENT PRIOR FELON SENTENCED TO 35 YEARS
IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR HOME INVASIONS AND
ARMED ROBBERIES IN TRI-STATE AREA**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that ROBERT SPEED was sentenced today in Manhattan federal court to 35 years in prison for charges related to a seven-year spree of violent robberies and burglaries that he committed with his co-conspirators throughout the tri-state area from 1995 through 2002. SPEED was also ordered to pay over \$500,000 in restitution.

In imposing the sentence, United States District Judge P. KEVIN CASTEL stated: "You tore at the fabric of society. You spread misery and pain. You robbed children of a sense of peace and well-being. ...You sentenced your victims to serve a lengthy term of depression, trauma, fear, anxiety, physical pain and financial loss. Those are my answers to why the sentence is fair and just."

According to the evidence at trial, SPEED, previously convicted of an armed robbery in 1987, was a core member of an armed and violent robbery crew (the "Speed Robbery Crew") that, after breaking into homes at night, bound, gagged and terrorized their victims, including children home alone, and that robbed businesses and restaurants at gunpoint in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. During the course of their criminal activity, the Speed Robbery Crew stole millions of dollars in cash and jewelry. SPEED and his crew members fenced their stolen goods through an accomplice jeweler operating a business on 47th Street in Manhattan, according to the evidence at trial. The residential neighborhoods which SPEED and his crew targeted for robberies, according to the evidence, included Laurel Hollow, Muttontown, Melville, Bay Shore and Patchogue on Long Island, as well as Darien, Connecticut and Warren Township, New Jersey.

SPEED was arrested on January 31, 2002 by the Nassau County Police Department after his DNA was found on a ski mask that he left behind at a burglary in Jericho, New York. On November 9, 2005, SPEED was convicted after a jury trial on charges that included conspiracy, racketeering, selling stolen property, and using firearms during crimes of violence.

Mr. GARCIA praised the investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Nassau County Police Department and thanked law enforcement officials in the police departments of Suffolk County, New York, Warren, New Jersey, and Darien, Connecticut for their assistance in the investigation, arrest and prosecution of this dangerous individual.

Assistant United States Attorneys BRIAN D. COAD and REED MICHAEL BRODSKY are in charge of the prosecution.

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